

Message Text

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SP-03 SS-20 /121 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: UN, ECOSOC
SUBJ: 56TH ECOSOC: ITEM 13 - CARTOGRAPHY

REF: USUN 1661

1. DELEGATION SHOULD REGISTER WITH SPONSORS OF DRAFT RES
E/AC.6/L.546 US RESERVATIONS CONCERNING CONVENING REGIONAL
CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCES OF THE AMERICAS, THE FIRST OF
WHICH THE DRAFT RES PROPOSES OCCUR IN 1976. ALTHOUGH THE
UN HAS SPONSORED REGIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCES IN
OTHER REGIONS, IT HAS NOT DONE SO IN THE AMERICAN HEMISPHERE
BECAUSE OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE WORK AND PRIOR EXISTENCE
OF THE PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY
(PAIGH) AND ITS COMMISSION ON CARTOGRAPHY. THE PAIGH IS A
SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATION OF THE OAS. THE CARTOGRAPHY COM-
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MISSION HAS EXISTED SINCE 1943, AND IS COMPOSED OF REPRE-

SENTATIVES OF ALL AMERICAN STATES EXCEPT, AT THE PRESENT TIME, CUBA, JAMAICA, BAHAMAS, GUYANA AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. IT MEETS EVERY TWO TO FOUR YEARS, THE LAST SESSION HAVING BEEN IN PANAMA IN MAY 1973. THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMISSION IS IN GUATEMALA (CHAIRMAN, ING. PORFIRIO GARCIA GALLONT), WHILE THE SITE OF THE PARENT INSTITUTE IS MEXICO CITY. THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION IS HIGHLY TECHNICAL, BEING CONCERNED WITH MAP SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS, AND SO FORTH, AND THE LIST OF ITS COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS COVERS ALL SUB-FIELDS OF CARTOGRAPHY.

2. IN DISCUSSING ABOVE POINT WITH SPONSORS, USDEL SHOULD INDICATE THAT INASMUCH AS THE UN HAS REFRAINED FROM COMPE-
TING WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON CARTOGRAPHY
THUS FAR, IT WOULD SEEM ENTIRELY PROPER THAT THE SG
FIRST EXPLORE THE ACTUAL NEED FOR THE PROPOSED CONFERENCES,
PREFERABLY IN CONSULTATION WITH OAS AND PAIGH, BEFORE THE
ECOSOC REQUESTS HIM TO CONVOKE THEM.

3. IF HOWEVER SPONSORS REMAIN FIRM ON E/AC.6/L.546 IN ITS
PRESENT FORM, USDEL CAN GO ALONG AND JOIN IN SUPPORT
BUT AS A MINIMUM THE REQUEST TO THE SG SHOULD ASK HIM TO
WORK IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH THE OAS, PAIGH AND ITS
COMMISSION ON CARTOGRAPHY.

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